

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 EURE-00 NEA-10 ARA-10 SAM-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 IO-13 ACDA-10 EB-07

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SUBJECT: HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY INTERVIEW

1. THERE FOLLOW HIGHLIGHTS OF AN INTERVIEW GIVEN BY
IVORY COAST PRESIDENT HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY TO GEORGES
SUFFERT WHICH APPEARED IN THE APRIL 26 ISSUE OF THE
FRENCH WEEKLY "LE POINT".

2. "...THE TRUTH IS THAT THE WEST WAS KICKED OUT OF
ASIA, PROBABLY SOONER THAN THE SOVIETS HAD FORESEEN.
YOU WILL SAY THAT INDIA REMAINS. I WOULD REPLY THAT IN
MY OPINION THE RUSSIANS ARE BLOCKING THINGS IN INDIA.
BECAUSE OF ITS MISERY AND ITS CASTE SYSTEM, INDIA IS
AT THEIR MERCY. THEREFORE THEY JUMPED A CONTINENT.
WHAT IS EXTRAORDINARY IS THE LEVITY OF THE U.S. AND OF
EUROPE, ON THE PRETEXT THAT THE SOVIETS FAILED SEVERAL
YEARS AGO IN THE CONGO AND GHANA. EVERYBODY COMFORTED
HIMSELF WITH THE ERRORS COMMITTED BY CZECH TECHNICIANS
AT THAT TIME. THAT WAS SIMPLY TO FORGET THAT THE
RUSSIANS ARE OBSTINATE, THAT THEY REFLECT OVER THEIR
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ERRORS AND COME UP WITH NEW APPROACHES..."

3. "...THE SOVIETS SENT CAREFULLY TRAINED CUBANS INTO THE ANGOLAN MAGUIS. AND THAT WAS WELL BEFORE CAETANO'S FALL. WHAT HAD TO HAPPEN THEREFORE HAPPENED. THESE CUBANS, WHO WERE DYING WITH THE ANGOLANS IN THE MAGUIS, WERE NOT INVADERS IN THE EYES OF OUR AFRICAN BROTHERS; THEY WERE FRIENDS. BUT THE DAY WHEN THE DECOR OF PORTUGUESE COLONIALISM CRUMBLED, THE CUBANS AND, THUS THE SOVIETS, WERE AT HOME IN THAT PART OF THE WORLD..."

4. TO THE QUESTION WHY THE AMERICANS DID NOT ACT, HOUPHOUET REPLIED: "WHY DID THE EUROPEANS NOT ACT? THAT IS THE REAL QUESTION, THE FIRST QUESTION. AFTER ALL, AFRICA TODAY IS THE DAUGHTER OF THE TROUBLED MARRIAGE BETWEEN THE EXPANSIONIST EUROPE OF A CENTURY AGO AND THE BLACK REVOLT OF TODAY. IT WAS THEREFORE UP TO YOU TO ACT. BUT YOU DID NOT DO SO, YOU DIDN'T EVEN THINK ABOUT IT. DO YOU STILL EXIST? ARE YOU NOT HENCEFORTH FASCINATED AND PARALYZED BY THE SOVIET UNION?..."

5. "... (THE SOVIETS) ADVANCE ONLY WHEN THERE IS NOTHING IN FRONT OF THEM. IN ANGOLA, BELIEVE ME, THEY HAD TAKEN THEIR PRECAUTIONS. THEY HESITATED FOR MONTHS BECAUSE THE SITUATION APPEARED SO EXTRAORDINARY TO THEM. WHEN THEY WERE ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN THAT THE EUROPEANS WERE THINKING OF OTHER THINGS AND THAT THE U.S. WAS TEMPORARILY WITHOUT LEADERSHIP, THEY ADVANCED. BUT NOTE WELL THAT THE RUSSIANS HAVE NO DESIRE TO PUT THEIR HANDS ON THE RICHES OF ANGOLA. THEY WANT ONLY TO FREEZE THE ECONOMIC SITUATION THERE -- BECAUSE A FROZEN SITUATION CREATES MISERY AND MISERY IS THE MOST FERTILE TERRAIN FOR COMMUNISM. AND ABOVE ALL THEY WISH TO KEEP THE WEST, ESPECIALLY EUROPE, FROM DEVELOPING AND EXPLOITING THE RICHES OF ANGOLA. CUTTING EUROPE OFF FROM AFRICA IS EQUIVALENT TO SEPARATING IT FROM ITS RAW MATERIALS..."

6. HOUPHOUET SAID EUROPE MUST AWAKEN, "IF THERE IS STILL TIME ENOUGH. DO NOT REASSURE YOURSELF WITH UNCLASSIFIED

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WORDS, 'DETENTE', FOR EXAMPLE... YOU EUROPEANS CANNOT CONTINUE TO GUARANTEE US IN SOLEMN AGREEMENTS THE STABILITY OF OUR EXPORT RECEIPTS WHILE CONTINUING TO PAY THE LOW PRICES DETERMINED BY THE INTERNATIONAL MARKET. YOU EUROPEANS OUGHT TO SET THE EXAMPLE BY PAYING APPROPRIATE PRICES FOR OUR RAW MATERIALS REQUIRED FOR YOUR DEVELOPMENT."
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